

# THE WOMAN'S LEADER

## AND THE COMMON CAUSE

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### NOTES AND NEWS.

#### The Opening of Parliament.

Tuesday, 9th November, will see the opening of a short but crowded autumn session. The time of the House itself will be occupied by many important measures such as the Electricity Bill, while it is hoped that the Coal Dispute will have reached a state when Parliamentary action may be useful. As for legislation concerning which readers of this paper take especial interest, the following Bills will be before either the upper or lower House. The Legitimacy Bill, having passed the House of Lords and reached its Committee stage in the House of Commons, will, it is hoped, reach the Statute Book after a gallant fight for time during a succession of sessions, though we regret to see that two Bills before it will have to be considered by its Standing Committee. The Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill has reached the same stage. Pressure is being brought to bear on the Minister of Health from different quarters both to enlarge and to reduce the scope of this Bill. We refer below to correspondence between the Sunlight League and the Minister, and fear that Mr. Chamberlain's reply indicates that the Government does not intend to do anything to extend it. The Lead Paint (Protection against Poisoning) Bill, having passed through the House of Commons and been introduced into the House of Lords during the summer, will be coming up for its second reading in the latter House. Lord Balfour of Burleigh is putting down an amendment which, if carried, will prevent the exclusion of women from the industry. A resolution regarding the employment of married women in the Civil Service and under Local Authorities will probably be moved by Lord Balfour of Burleigh either this session or next. Far more important than any of these, however, looms the question of Equal Franchise. Will the Prime Minister make any announcement as to the course he intends to adopt? Does he realize the danger of proceeding with his proposal of a Conference in view of the long time necessitated by this procedure, and the fact that in order to enable men and women to vote on equal terms at the next election, it is imperative, unless the election is delayed until after October, 1928, that legislation should reach the Statute Book before 1st June, 1927?

#### The Government on Smoke Abatement.

The correspondence between Dr. C. W. Saleeby on behalf of the Sunlight League, and the Minister of Health, with regard to the Government's Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Bill does not offer much hope that the Bill will be amended in the direction desired by women's organizations. With respect to the criticism by the League that the Bill gives too much power to the Minister to exclude any processes, Mr. Chamberlain points out that he is of the opinion that the law should not be too far ahead of practice, but that "there is no intention of exempting any industrial processes unless an adequate case for this course has been made out and any extension of the exemption will have to be confirmed by Parliament". With regard to the request that new dwelling houses should be brought within the scope of the Bill, Mr. Chamberlain, while admitting that the domestic smoke is responsible for most of the evil, writes that there are limits to the extent to which it is possible to induce householders to adopt methods of heating to which they are not used. He points out the fact that the difficult problem of domestic smoke cannot be solved until means have been devised reducing the smoke from existing grates, and that the Government are researching actively to discover cheap smokeless fuel for the ordinary grate. Dr. Saleeby, in replying, pointed out that for the Government to suggest that domestic smoke cannot be successfully avoided, is to discourage individual effort and to perpetuate the evil even where it can be removed.

#### Women Magistrates.

At last week's meeting of the Magistrates' Association in the Guildhall, London, it was noticed that representatives of the 1,600 women magistrates on the rolls in England and Wales greatly predominated—a symptom of the seriousness with which women magistrates as a general rule take their magisterial duties. In his address to the Association, Lord Haldane, its retiring President, called attention to the admirable progress which the Lord Chancellor had made with the reorganization of the Advisory Committees, including the addition to them of 150 women. Nevertheless, it must be added that to judge from the recent lists of newly appointed justices, 150 women members of Advisory Committees are clearly insufficient to secure the adequate representation of women on the Commission of the Peace. From two centres, Blackpool and Suffolk, come complaints that no women at all have been added. In Blackpool the bench includes sixty justices, of whom only three are women. In reply to inquiries by the *Westminster Gazette* last week, the Parliamentary Secretary of the N.U.S.E.C. complained that the local selection committees appeared to be disinclined to expedite the recommendations of the Lord Chancellor with regard to the appointment of women justices, and were on the whole prejudiced bodies as far as the appointment of women were concerned. It is essential that women should become members of this committee in increasing numbers.

#### Women Liberals and the Imperial Conference.

The Executive Committee of the Women's National Liberal Federation has passed and circulated to the Dominion Premiers a number of resolutions concerning Imperial policy. They deal respectively with Free Trade, Disarmament, Immigration, Nationality Rights, the Status of Native Races, and the Trustee-

'Keep fit on  
COCOA'

**BOURNVILLE**  
SEE THE "Cadbury" ON EVERY PIECE  
NAME OF CHOCOLATE

Write  
Cadbury, Bournville  
about Gift Scheme

ship of Mandated Territories. As regards Nationality rights, the Federation "believes that women should be allowed a free choice in retaining or changing their nationality on marriage." In the case of immigration they urge the Imperial Conference "to ensure that all facilities as regards agricultural training, assisted passages, and grants of land or other assistance to settlers be available for women." We suspect that the subject matter of this last resolution concerns a matter in which the interests and equal status of women may easily be overlooked, and upon which women's organizations would do well to keep a vigilant eye.

#### Women Jurors.

An interesting article in the *Daily Telegraph* from a legal correspondent sums up the impression that five years' experience of women as jurors has had on the official mind. It will be remembered that before women were admitted as jurors, the whole system was being very much questioned. This being so, it was unreasonable to expect that the introduction of women into the service would remove complaints in so short a time. Has the leaven of feminine qualities made any difference? The latest official figures obtainable relate to 1924, and show that in that year, sheriffs summoned no fewer than 13,979 women as compared with 56,315 men. This gives roughly one woman to four men, but we find that with individual juries the proportion varies very much. The official view is that the advent of women has brought about no appreciable difference whatever in the common estimate of jurors. This will perhaps comfort those who feared disaster from the introduction of women, and who had visions of strange happenings in the jury box, due to women's supposed physical and intellectual disqualifications for the service. It appears, however, that the average woman juror, as we might expect, is no less capable of unearthing motives, testing the veracity of witnesses, and understanding ordinary affairs, than the average man juror, and some would credit her with even superior keenness and better logic in respect of some of the involutions of dispute.

#### United Synagogue and Women's Franchise.

We very much regret that at a meeting of the Council of the United Synagogue and of special delegates from each synagogue, an amendment to the constitution providing for the right of women members of the Synagogue to vote on all matters (but without the privilege to be elected to any office or to the Board of Management) was defeated, in spite of an amendment on these lines having been carried by the Council itself on an earlier occasion. This decision came as a very great disappointment to the Union of Jewish Women, who have so gallantly fought for the improved status of women in the administration of the Synagogue affairs.

#### A College for Working Women.

An interesting experiment is taking place at Surbiton where a house known as the Gables is being turned into Hill Croft College, where working women students, chiefly weekly wage-earners, can be accommodated. The college was opened in 1920 at Beckenham as an experiment in providing full-time study for women workers. The 105 students who have passed through up to date include domestic servants, brewery workers, biscuit packers, etc. About one-half of these have returned to their former work, and the remainder have taken up some form of social or educational work. Over forty bedrooms are being provided in the new college, which is under the presidency of Professor J. L. Stocks. Various educational trusts have contributed towards the expense, as have also employers, women's colleges, public girls' schools, etc.

#### Unemployment Among Women.

We regret that the monthly figures show that in certain towns at any rate unemployment among women workers is widespread. The large supply of women workers in proportion to the demand is, of course, one of the chief reasons for low wages, and we sympathize warmly with the General Secretary of the National Union of Shop Assistants in regretting that the Grocery Trade Board has been scrapped, and that no Trade Boards are to be set up for the distributive trades, despite the evidence of low wages and long hours collected by the Government's own investigators. It is interesting and cheering that where, on the other hand, the supply of women is limited, the improved effect on their wages can be noted. At the Carmarthen Fair last week women land workers were so scarce that skilled farm girls commanded the same wages as men.

#### Equal Franchise and Young Women.

We are glad to be able to call attention in another column to a Poster Parade which is being organized by the Young Suffragists to take place on Tuesday next outside the House of Commons on the opening of Parliament. There will be twenty sandwich women, all under thirty, demanding the vote in various fashions. Recruits are being asked for, and we hope that many of our younger readers will go to swell the band.

#### Women and the Bar.

Certain sections of the Press have commented upon the paucity of women candidates in the Michaelmas Bar examinations. Certainly out of more than 200 students who passed, only twenty-one were women. Nevertheless, in view of the novelty of the legal adventure, and of the additional though often indefinite professional impediments which beset the woman lawyer in her subsequent career, this total appears to us a creditable one. And we offer to the twenty-one successful women examinees our cordial good wishes for future success. It is interesting to note that one of the successful candidates was Ma Pwa Hmee, the first Burmese woman to become qualified.

#### Resignation of Miss Gray.

Miss Gray, High Mistress of St. Paul's Girl's School, has announced her resignation, which will take effect from next Easter. Her resignation will be greeted with great regret by all past and present Paulinas. Miss Gray has certainly shown herself to be one of the great band of educational pioneers. She was appointed as first High Mistress of St. Paul's in 1903, and her work during the last twenty-three years has built up the school to its present high position, and has made a real contribution to the cause of modern girls' education.

#### Progress of a Woman Candidate.

The *Daily Herald* of 27th October calls attention to the rapid progress, the result of greatly improved organization, being made by Miss Monica Whately, Labour Parliamentary candidate for Hythe. It adds the reminder that Miss Whately "was at one time an active worker in the women's suffrage movement." We would add the further reminder that Miss Whately is a member of the N.U.S.E.C. Executive, and is still an active worker in the women's suffrage movement. We commend this fact to the women electors of Hythe, and to all potential helpers living within reasonable distance of Hythe.

#### In Memory of Emily Hobhouse.

Last week the ashes of the late Miss Emily Hobhouse were deposited in a niche in the Women's National Memorial at Bloomsfontein, with remarkable demonstrations of the affection with which her memory is cherished by the women of South Africa. Three hundred mounted burghers headed a procession of mourners drawn from all parts of the Union, among them the Minister of the Interior and General Smuts. The memorial was originally erected to the memory of women and children who died in concentration camps during the South African war, and it is peculiarly fitting that the remains of Emily Hobhouse, who championed their cause with such headlong and fanatical courage, should find a resting place under its shade. Time, and a wise colonial policy, wisely received, have healed many old wounds in the South African Union. Dutch and English alike can therefore combine to honour the memory of one whose obstinate championship of unpopular causes was, in her own time, a constant source of fury to her national government and her national press.

#### Annot Robinson Memorial Fund.

Those who subscribed to the memorial fund initiated by the friends and fellow-workers of that redoubtable suffragist, the late Mrs. Annot Robinson, will be interested to know that the fund has realized £177 14s. 9d. This sum has, according to the intentions of its subscribers, been handed over to those of her relatives who have charge of her two little girls, to be used for their benefit and education.

*POLICY.*—The sole policy of THE WOMAN'S LEADER is to advocate a real equality of liberties, status and opportunities between men and women. So far as space permits, however, it will offer an impartial platform for topics not directly included in the objects of the women's movement but of special interest to women. Articles on these subjects will always be signed, at least by initials or a pseudonym, and for the opinions expressed in them the Editor accepts no responsibility.

#### BACK TO THE COAL REPORT.

On the day on which this issue reaches its readers, Friday, 5th November, a widely representative group of women's organizations will meet in conference at 3.30 p.m. in Church House, Westminster, at the invitation of the National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship. The purpose of the conference is to concentrate the efforts of such organizations in support of a demand that the Government shall once more address itself to the difficult task of negotiating a coal mining settlement, taking as the framework of such a settlement the recommendations of the Samuel Report. It will be a conference similar in spirit and intention to that which was called at two days' notice during the General Strike last May, to support the Peace efforts of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and there is every reason to believe that it will be equally symptomatic of a wide and deep current of public opinion.

Let us therefore take the opportunity of reminding our readers what the principal recommendations of the Report actually are. First and foremost, the Report rejects the policy of an outside subsidy, and emphasizes the need for a drastic and immediate scaling-down of production costs in the British coal industry. For the achievement of such scaling-down it indicates a number of minor economies, including an ultimate economy of general working costs to be obtained if necessary by the compulsory amalgamation of the smaller colliery undertakings. But these economies represent, for the moment at any rate, a negligible contribution to the deficit. Meanwhile the Report rejects an extension of hours, for reasons, among others, connected with the stultifying reactions of such a policy in stimulating longer hours abroad. Thus it is thrown back upon the conclusion that the principal and immediate burden of such economy must fall upon wages in the form of a reduction of the "minimum percentage addition to standard rates of wages."

When this recommendation is set in its proper perspective and regarded side by side with the unvarnished account of the industry's insolvency, it will be seen that the Report is in fact calling upon the coal industry for a very drastic sacrifice, the main brunt of which falls upon the miners. That is why the immediate reaction to it last spring, not merely of the miners' leaders, but of the average trade unionist, was a gesture of dislike and scepticism. The miners were already, under the old 1924 agreement, living precariously near the poverty line. The only effective suggestion that four eminent middle-class Commissioners could make for the economic salvation of the industry was a further cut in those inadequate standards, taking from him that has not, even that which he hath. That was how it seemed to the trade union rank and file, and as an instinctive attitude it was understandable. What was less understandable was the refusal of the miners' leaders, who should have known more of the case, to face up to the arguments which caused those four Commissioners to demand so terrible a sacrifice.

For it was a terrible sacrifice, and the Commissioners knew it for what it was. That was why so large a proportion of their remaining conclusions represent an attempt to soften its agony by so adjusting the necessary cuts as to do the least possible

#### WOMEN IN THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

By MARGERY CORBETT ASHBY.

The impression left by the 1926 Assembly is that the League has grown faster and stronger than some of its authors expected or desired.

The clause that all positions are equally open to women as to men cannot be effective unless women in all countries insist that the careers which qualify for these posts are opened to them. The League is apt to reflect the position of women in the less advanced countries whose men in positions of authority at Geneva are placidly unaware of women's capacity. To obtain a seat on the Council a woman must have a successful diplomatic career, occupy a high post in the Civil Service, or be a Minister. As delegates to the Assembly the women from Australia, Denmark, Great Britain, Norway, Rumania and Sweden have been highly trained specialists or have had a general wide experience of political life, i.e. the same qualifications as men. Other countries could supply them. Holland and Czechoslovakia, for example, if their women demanded it.

We are grateful to the magnificent women who serve on the Commissions dealing with health, traffic, children, refugees; but we must remember that these humanitarian activities are not essential to the League, though it supplies them with a convenient form of organization. The League's work is to

damage to human standards, and by giving the miners, in return some assurance that the future conduct of the industry would be governed by certain standards of public utility. Taken together, these aims are embodied in recommendations involving the nationalization of mining royalties, compulsory amalgamation of undertakings where such is deemed essential to efficient working, non-interference with the wages of the lowest paid men, a scheme of family allowances, profit sharing, pit committees, and for the general amenities of mining life, pit-head baths, holidays with pay, and a better provision of houses. Meanwhile, though wage variations from district to district were regarded as necessary, such variations, the Report considered, should be achieved as at present within the framework of a national wage agreement.

Looked at in relation to the central demand for a drastic wage cut, these various safeguards and compensations appeared meagre enough. Some were only remotely operative, while the wage-cuts were immediate. Others, such as the family allowances which appear to us as a permanent and very real safeguard to the elementary standards of the whole mining community, appeared to the miners as untried and problematical experiments. Written large and black across the intricate pages of the Report, large, too, in the mouths of their incompetent leaders, remained the terrible call for a drastic wage cut: less money week by week, less food and clothes week by week, a prospect only one degree less intolerable than the prospect, fortunately shelved by the Report, of more dark dangerous hours per week in the cramped confines of a coal seam.

When one looks back again at the implications of the Report, as one looked at them last spring, it is easy enough to understand the repulsion with which the miners regarded it. It should therefore be easy for those of us whose primary life standards are above the battle, to demand now that the miners, a million men with their wives and children, should not be forced by strategic circumstance and the rough justice of physical force, to pay the full penalty of their blind obstinacy and of their indiscriminating choice of leaders. We are all of us at times indiscriminating in our choice of leaders. They know now that the sacrifice of wages must be faced, and they are prepared to face it. Must they be called upon to face, in addition, the sacrifice of all those other balanced and constructive recommendations which give to the Report some element of compromise, by offering to the miners some element (a very small one compared with the sacrifice) of compensation and security?

Nor are the miners the only section of the community which is being called upon to suffer the consequences of the present deplorable dispute. Nor are they the only party to it whose intractable obstinacy is responsible for its unprecedented continuance. All these considerations and many more besides, not to mention others which may emerge between the writing of these lines and their appearance in print, will doubtless be present in the minds of those who meet in conference at Church House on Friday afternoon. We wish them good success, wisdom, and understanding, and an influence and power out of all proportion to the numbers they represent or the range of their voices.

ensure Peace, not Health or Morals. We want women qualified in statesmanship, in the law, in science, in big business, and in high finance, to sit on the commissions for mandates, frontiers, minorities, communications, economics and debts, and above all disarmament, where according to British theory naval and military experts are subordinate to statesmen. These political commissions are the essential ones.

We must not too easily admit that women are not qualified. A clever politician such as Mr. Churchill, with experience gained from different political parties, can successfully occupy different Ministries, in not one of which he is a trained expert.

Meanwhile, whatever excuse there may be for excluding women from technical commissions, it is absurd that when women of many lands occupy high positions in the Civil Service there are so few women in the Secretariat. Only one woman is head of a section, Dame Rachel Crowley; only one woman, Mlle Colin of Belgium, is in Class B. The rest of the women are lumped together in the "Intermediary" class, in which are few men. The Secretariat, like most business houses, has many women typists and stenographers.

It is difficult to criticize from the outside, and unfortunately many men on the appointments committees come from countries

where women's work is not much valued. The unsatisfactory position of women is more likely due to prejudice than to any shortcomings in work when they are given a trial. Dame Rachel's work would have made her a director had she been a man.

Miss Wilson, the librarian, who has built up the library from the beginning, a difficult and complicated task, cannot have her contract renewed because she is an American; yet the Council renewed Mr. Sweetzer's contract last March cordially and unanimously on Sir Eric's recommendation. He is an American man. Perhaps a woman needs not only to be capable but to have "popularity" and influence. Why, we ask, when a post was advertised in Section B, did the successful candidate of 16, a woman, find on arrival at Geneva that she was to do the work at a lower status and inferior pay? Is 27 really too young for a man to do good work?

The Labour office is quite different. The reason probably is that the atmosphere is different. The Labour office is "modern", the League old-fashioned and full of "influence". In the Labour office men and women work as comrades in enthusiastic research, in new efforts to tackle the problems of the industrial age.

The Secretariat deals with medieval problems of uneconomic frontiers, the remains of old and new conquests, the thousand scars of old strifes. It has to work with and through men steeped in the old tradition and in the intense and susceptible nationalism fostered by the war. Yet the best leaders would welcome the co-operation of women. Able women must enter for any vacant post; public opinion must appreciate their promotion and watch any set-back. Women's organizations can put forward the names of good women and should expect due consideration in the allocation of administrative as of other posts.

### MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

We give below a list of those names which have reached us in time for this week's issue of successful women candidates. We hope to publish more next week. Unfortunately the names of defeated women candidates would have made a far longer list. We have not as yet sufficient data to tell whether the number of women members of County Councils have been increased or diminished.

BARROW	Mrs. Kay.
BIRMINGHAM	Alice Longden (Lab.). Theodora Wilson (Lab.). Francis Daniels (Indep.). Labour woman gained seat.
BOLTON	*Alderman Cathleen Chambers (Lab.).
BRADFORD	*Mrs. Grundy (Lab.).
EASTBOURNE	*Miss Rannell. *Miss Thornton.
EXETER	Mrs. Arthur Reed (C.).
HASTINGS	Mrs. Badcock (Unopposed).
HORNSEY	Mrs. Ray. Miss Cave.
KINGSTON	Two women elected.
LINCOLN	Miss Nevile, J.P. (Citizens League Candidate).
LIVERPOOL	*Lady Muspratt (C.). *Miss MacCormick (Catholic). *Miss Rathbone (Indep.).
NOEWICH	Mrs. M. Clarkson (Lab.). *Mrs. Henderson. Mrs. Johnson.
OSWESTRY	*Mrs. Lodge.
OXFORD	Miss Tawney (C.) (Unopposed).
PRESTON	Mrs. Pimblett (Lab.) (Re-elected).
READING	*Mrs. Sutton (Lab.). Mrs. Wheeler.
RYE	Mrs. Hacking. Miss Roffey.
YARMOUTH	Mrs. Harbord.
	* Sitting Members.

### MISS RATHBONE'S VICTORY.

We offer our sincerest congratulations to Liverpool and to Eleanor Rathbone, one of our directors, on her majority of 994 at Granby Ward, Liverpool. Accounts which have reached us of the contest show that it aroused as much interest as a Parliamentary election, that the meetings were magnificent and the Press excellent. Miss Rathbone obviously obtained both the Liberal and Labour votes. The Chairman of the Labour Party, in appealing to his own members, wrote: "Miss Rathbone is not a member of the Labour Party, but so obviously has she dedicated herself to the uplifting of humanity and so distinguished have been her civic services, that we feel to oppose her candidature would not only be bad grace, but sheer folly". The Liverpool Press, commenting on her victory, says: "Her contest may influence the general temper of municipal politics in useful ways and make for a more sympathetic attitude to constructive social workers."

### INTRODUCTION TO SALLY.

The author of *Elizabeth and Her German Garden* has produced this month a successor to *Love*.<sup>1</sup> To say that it is not up to the standard of her best early work, or in other words, that it shows the same downward tendencies as *Love*, is not to say that it is not a very amusing and enlivening book. If it were not, then Elizabeth would not be herself. We are painfully aware that eminent novelists are not always themselves—nevertheless here, as elsewhere, Elizabeth is Elizabethan enough to be recognizable. And if it is true that she is cumulatively developing in her later works a very perceptible vein of coarseness, we can only confess that it does not here seem to come altogether amiss!

Sally, to whom she introduces us, is a divinely beautiful creature. So beautiful that her beauty is a positive curse to her, and a double curse to those to whom Fate has confided the responsibility for her personal security. But alas, while conferring upon her this dubious gift, Providence has withheld from her the intellectual acumen that would have enabled her to exploit its possibilities, or for that matter, protect herself from its consequences. Life in a tenement with a handful of babies and a husband requiring her material ministrations in the intervals of outside work constitute her natural sphere and the brimming cup of her ideal—a husband, moreover, of her own class, and happily oblivious to her qualitative and quantitative conversational shortcomings. Such a husband she does not, needless to say, acquire. The highbrow and irritable Cambridge research scholar whom she marries in passive acquiescence to parental ideas of economic and social security reconciles with difficulty the physical perfection and intellectual vacuity of the bride whom he has so impulsively married—over the counter, so to speak, of her worthy father's shop. And the difficulties of that reconciliation, intensified by the well-intentioned assistance of an over-educative mother-in-law, provide Elizabeth with all the conceivable improbabilities which she needs for the recital of her merry tale. For, after all, they are conceivable improbabilities, for in the essential conflict of her exaggerated theme there smoulders the live spark of a universal experience: this sporadic conflict of the sensuous with the intellectual judgment. And may we not thank Heaven for its existence, for without it, how comfortably logical our human relationships would be; how denuded our lives of the exercise of tolerance and the practise of human understanding, how lacking in the element of surprise and the magic of discovery! M. D. S.

### RETURN TO BONDAGE.<sup>2</sup>

It is hard to believe that this is a first novel. Quietly and humorously written, the author perfectly avoids both the bitterness of youth and the over-emphasis of inexperience. What subject calls forth so much of the young novelist's heavy artillery as the clash between one generation and another? Yet Miss Blackburn uses only the lightest of weapons, though she fights with great skill.

Here are mothers and daughters of the upper middle class to the life. Mrs. Rivers and Mrs. Oliphant could not understand why Joan and Laura, their children, were not contented with a peaceable and luxurious life at home, and the prospect of a "good" marriage. Joan and Laura retorted with arguments about freedom, initiative, and repression—arguments every girl who leaves a comfortable home in order to earn her own living has used since the war—or is it since the popularization of psychology? But there was deep affection between the mothers and their daughters; the young did not score off the old, neither did the old coerce the young. The absence of a strained and tortured psychology is really refreshing. "Joan, with all her generation, was restless, but hers was the female restlessness which is to a large extent a search for security." This rings true. The history of Joan and Laura, of their short freedom, and of their return to bondage is well and sincerely done. Miss Blackburn's men are not so good as her women—but they are only part of the background in any case. Wilfred and Eric are types, but no more than types, and Nigel's personality is so elusive, that one fails entirely to visualize him. Nevertheless, this is a book that our readers should beg, borrow, steal, or even buy, and then, perhaps they can tell me why the publishers state on the jacket that it is "a novel with a 'message' although in no sense a formidable one." The message that I read seemed both formidable and somewhat depressing. M. B. B.

<sup>1</sup> *Introduction to Sally* by the author of *Elizabeth and Her German Garden*. (Macmillan and Co., 7s. 6d.)

<sup>2</sup> *Return to Bondage*, by Barbara Blackburn. (Pub. Secker, 7s. 6d.)

### OTHER LANDS.

It is a very bold undertaking to describe the "soul" of a country, even one's own; and when it comes to other lands the job is practically hopeless. There are a few very great books—*Arabia Deserta*, for example, *Marco Polo*, and perhaps a dozen more—which by much detail and a sort of concentrated observation, convey solid realities to the reader's mind and make him think he is voyaging in outlandish places among strange things which gradually unfold their meaning. But the two books before us have not the remotest touch of this power. They are glib and secure, both of them, written not by explorers or observers, but by theorists, trying to prove something, and selecting their facts to suit.

Mr. Joad,<sup>1</sup> indeed, makes no attempt at observation. He has never been to America, and never, it would seem, studied its history or its problems. He has looked through some of the latest American novels, and one or two books of criticism—notably Mr. Menkins—and then he has taken up his pen and tried to be "smart". The book is amusing, in a half-baked modern fashion; but it is sprinkled with gross blunders and gives the impression of being written for the sake of showing off. It would be better for the author to do some solid reading before he writes again.

Mrs. Besant's<sup>2</sup> failings are quite different, and her aim a more serious one. She is trying to prove not that she is clever but the political thesis that India should be "free". Incidentally, too, she is trying to establish the validity of "clairvoyant investigations"; and then two objects stand terribly in the way of the accuracy of her book. Not that she does not say much that is both interesting and true; not that she does not write with some fairness and good sense; yet over it all she throws a cloud of dogma which vitiates her argument and fills the reader's mind with suspicion.

These two books, and the swarm of others which annually deal with other lands and other peoples, set up a train of reflection. We are all anxious nowadays to promote international understanding, and we are much more interested than we were in the life and outlook of "foreigners". Some of us rush continually from one international conference to another: some of us plunge deep into foreign literatures, and some into what are called "international movements". We all mean very well, and we are filled with an eager friendliness which seems to be "creating an atmosphere of goodwill". It would be cynical and stupid to scoff at this movement, or to believe the old maxim that the more countries know of each other the less friendly they are likely to be. But for all that a little caution may be justified. Internationalism is a much more difficult affair than sentimentalists hope to find it, and even a great deal of knowledge goes a very small way in so big a field. Books like Mr. Joad's can do nothing but harm, and books like Mrs. Besant's?—well, there will always be such books, so we had better say no more about it. R. S.

<sup>1</sup> *The Babbitt Warren*, by C. E. M. Joad. (Kegan Paul, 6s.)

<sup>2</sup> *India Bond or Free*, by Annie Besant. (Putnam, 7s. 6d.)

### National Union of Societies for Equal Citizenship.

The PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE are giving

## A RECEPTION

to meet the RIGHT HONOURABLE THE

VISCOUNT CECIL OF CHELWOOD, K.C.

(Delegate for Great Britain at the Assembly of the League of Nations),

and

DAME EDITH LYTTTELTON, D.B.E.

(Substitute Delegate for Great Britain at the Assembly of the League of Nations),

who will both speak on the Work of the 7th Assembly of the League of Nations,

at the

OLD COUNTY HALL, SPRING GARDENS, S.W. 1,

On Monday, 8th November, 1926, at 5 o'clock.

TICKETS (price 2/6, including tea), may be had on application to the Secretary, 15, Dean's Yard, S.W. 1.

TEA, 5 o'clock  
SPEECHES, 5.30.

COMPOSERS and AUTHORS invited to forward Lyrics, Music, Songs, Novels, Poems, Stories, Tales for Children, Plays, Films, Essays. Messrs. ARTHUR H. STOCKWELL, Ltd., 29 Ludgate Hill, London. No reading fees. Est. 1898.

### SCOTTISH COUNCIL OF WOMEN CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS.

The sixth Annual Conference of the S.C.W.C.A.s was held at Dumfries on 29th and 30th October. There were delegates present from all parts of Scotland. The "Queen of the South" gave them a right royal welcome, providing amongst other things a delightful evening reception by the Provost and Magistrates and a luncheon by the local W.C.A. Lady Leslie Mackenzie, Chairman of the Council, presided at both Friday's and Saturday's meetings. A variety of topics, including the Solicitation Laws, the need for a Child Adoption Bill for Scotland, procedure in regard to the summoning and balloting of jurors, were discussed on Friday. A resolution on Equal Franchise and one recommending to the various W.C.A.s throughout Scotland the study of Family Allowances, were passed unanimously. An interesting feature was the discussion regarding the proposed publication by the Council of a News Sheet. This, it was explained, would be issued quarterly, and would either take the form of a separate sheet printed independently, or of an inset in one or other of the existing women's papers, and the terms offered by these latter were put before the delegates.

Saturday's meetings, which were open to the public, were well attended. The subject dealt with at the morning session was "Food and Health". An interesting lecture on "Diet and Sunshine" was given by Dr. Chalmers Watson, of Edinburgh, who emphasized the fact that in matters dietetic (as in all others, an educated public opinion in regard to the value of foodstuffs is the only real way of escape from the many ills that flesh is heir to. Mr. Allan Ritchie, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Edinburgh, followed with a lurid picture—and unfortunately a true one—of the offensive methods too often used in the production and handling of different foods. Like the previous speaker, he urged the need of a more educated public opinion on these matters. Legislation also was required. The necessity of registration of all persons who carry on the manufacture or sale of foodstuffs might be a matter of debate, but it was beyond question, he contended, that some form of regulation was required. A resolution embodying this opinion was unanimously carried. Miss Dorothy Melvin, Principal, Glasgow and West of Scotland College of Domestic Science, rounded off the subject with a very able lecture on "The Use and Abuse of Food in our Homes". In the open discussion, Drs. Hunter, Livingstone, Ritchie, and Mr. Barker, Sanitary Inspector (all of Dumfries) and others took part.

The last speech on the programme, looked forward to with the keenest interest both by delegates and the general public, was that of Lady Leslie Mackenzie. Lady Mackenzie dealt in her usual racy manner with the final steps in the Women Citizens' campaign for the establishment of a Colony for the Permanent Care of the Feeble-minded. The fruition of three years' hard work was now theirs and the Colony was practically an accomplished fact. Lady Mackenzie was able to announce that the fund collected now reached over £12,000. This sum had been handed over to the existing Institution for Mental Defectives at Larbert to enable them to proceed with the purchase of an adjoining estate which was ideally suited for a Colony such as the W.C.A.s had in mind. The Colony—the first of its kind in Scotland—would be managed by the directors of the Larbert Institution, but the S.C.W.C.A.s would have ample representation on the Board, and part of the Colony to be erected would bear the name of *Scottish Women Citizens' Association*.

The Conference concluded with votes of thanks to Lady Mackenzie for her magnificent work in connection with the Colony scheme, to Mrs. Hunter, President, and Miss Hendrie and Mrs. Kirkland, joint honorary secretaries of the Dumfries W.C.A., and to the hostesses who had entertained the delegates. M. P.

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Hon. Secretary: The LADY BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH. Parliamentary Secretary: Mrs. HUBBACK  
Offices: 15 Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W. 1.  
Telephone: Victoria 6188.

### RECEPTION TO VISCOUNT CECIL AND DAME EDITH LYTTLTON, MONDAY, 8th NOVEMBER, at 5 o'clock.

The President and Executive Committee of the N.U.S.E.C. are giving a reception at the Old County Hall, Spring Gardens, on Monday next, 8th November, at 5 o'clock, to Viscount Cecil and Dame Edith Lyttelton, who will speak on the recent Assembly of the League of Nations. Tickets (price 2s. 6d. including tea) may be obtained from headquarters.

### CONFERENCE ON THE COAL DISPUTE, FRIDAY, 5th NOV., at 3.30 o'clock.

The N.U.S.E.C. is calling a Conference of Women's Organizations to be held at the Church House, Great Smith Street, on Friday, 5th November, at 3.30 p.m., in order to consider whether they can take any joint action for the rally of public opinion in favour of a negotiated settlement of the dispute in the coal industry on the lines of the Report of the Royal Commission. The chair will be taken by Miss Eleanor Rathbone and Miss Maude Royden will move a resolution on the following lines:—

That this Conference, realizing that the continuance of the present disastrous dispute in the mining industry means grave distress during the coming winter, urges the Government to bring pressure to bear on both parties to the dispute, to arrange a settlement on the lines of the Report of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry.

Visitors will be welcome and can obtain tickets at the door free of charge.

### CONFERENCE ON "WHAT IS THE REAL PROTECTION OF THE WORKER?" FRIDAY, 26th NOVEMBER, at 11 o'clock.

An all-day Conference on the above subject will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, S.W. 1, on Friday, 26th November, from 11 a.m. to 1.15 p.m., and from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. The Conference will be in support of the N.U.S.E.C. policy on the subject, viz. that restrictions should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker. Miss Chrystal Macmillan will be in the chair. Visitors' tickets can be obtained from headquarters, price 1s. each. The speakers will include Dr. Jane Walters, Dr. Martindale, Mrs. Abbott, Miss Helen Ward.

### YOUNG SUFFRAGISTS' POSTER PARADE.

A notice of the Young Suffragists' Poster Parade appears elsewhere in this issue. This Society, which has affiliated to the N.U.S.E.C., reports an increase of members during the past week. Supporters of any age and either sex will be welcomed. The voteless under thirty wishing to take part are invited to write to Miss Veida Greer, Hon. Sec. Y.S. Poster Parade, 55 Leyspring Road, Leytonstone, E.11.

### NEWS FROM SOCIETIES.

**ST. ANDREW'S W.C.A.**  
At the opening meeting of the winter session held early last month, Mrs. Waterston, the President, extended a welcome to all the members present. She referred to the very interesting series of meetings which had been arranged, at the first of which Mrs. Hubback was speaking that evening on "Bills before Parliament." During her address Mrs. Hubback called attention to the urgent need for bringing pressure to bear on Members of Parliament in order that an Equal Franchise measure might be passed in time to allow women to vote on equal terms with men at the next election.

### PETERSFIELD S.E.C.

A three days' exhibition of pictures, carvings, and needlework was held at Sandylea, Petersfield (by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Morris), last week. The object of the exhibition was to raise the remainder of the annual guarantee paid by the Petersfield Society to Headquarters. This object was achieved, and furthermore (according to the press reports) the exhibition was a source of very considerable interest and enjoyment to the public. In fact, it is suggested that it become a yearly occurrence.

### BRISTOL S.E.C.

A meeting was held by the Bristol S.E.C. in conjunction with the Women's International League and the W.C.A. on 29th October, at which Mrs. Hubback spoke on Equal Franchise.

A representative audience listened with great interest to the account given of possible legislation on this all-important subject, and a resolution calling upon the Prime Minister to summon the promised Conference without delay was carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hubback also briefly summarized the other objects of the National Union and the success it has already achieved, and her inspiring address was warmly appreciated.

## The SIXTEENTH ENGLISHWOMAN EXHIBITION

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THE MEMORY OF YOUR SMILE.		John Little.
MY HONEY'S COMING BACK TO DIXIE.		Lylie E. Baker.
THE COTTAGE ON MOONLIGHT BAY.		A. Thompson.
TOUCH WOOD AND WHISTLE.		Words, J. H. Tucker. Music, Keith Hampton.
SUSIE AND PRUE.	Words, R. Page.	Music, S. Rigby Arons.
YOU SANG TO ME.	Words, Mrs. M. Hamilton-Fellows. Music, G. F. Bloomer.	

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### FREE LEGAL DISPENSARIES.

We are glad to learn that the Glasgow Society for Equal Citizenship and Women Citizens' Association, in connection with the Charity Organization Society, is setting up two free Legal Dispensaries in order to give information on legal matters to those who are unable to afford to pay solicitors. It is true that many of the large towns provide something of the kind, but a voluntary effort in this direction serves to bring home more keenly the need for the provision of legal aid for poor persons by the State.

### THE WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

The Women's International League announces its Annual Fair on Wednesday, 10th November, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Binyon, in the British Museum. Tours, conducted by experts to the different parts of the Museum are being arranged. A sale will be held of goods from many countries, and three concerts will be given during the afternoon, at 4.30, 5.15, and 6 o'clock. Tickets for the British Museum tours (1s. each), should be obtained beforehand from the Secretary, W.I.L., 55 Gower Street, W.C. 1, saying which tour it is desired to join and at what time. They will leave at 3.30 and 4 o'clock, and the five different departments to be visited are: Roman and Greek, Egyptian, Porcelain, Manuscript, and the Library, Reading Room and Book Rooms.

### SOCIETY OF WOMEN MUSICIANS.

The opening meeting of the Society's winter season had a special appropriateness about its date—the 16th of October—as this was the very date in the year 1885 on which its President, Miss Fanny Davies, made her first appearance. The début of an English girl pianist in those days was a very unusual affair, and the sensation created by Fanny Davies' playing of the G Major Beethoven Concerto at the first Crystal Palace concert of that season under Adolf Manns, was an auspicious beginning to her great career. Members of the S.W.M. were privileged to have a pianoforte recital from their president on this year's anniversary, and Miss Davies began her programme with the very solo which she played after the Concerto at her first concert—the "Romance" in F sharp by Schumann, and a "Gigue" in B flat minor by Graun. She followed this by the encore which she had given at the first "Monday Pop", a fortnight later—Mendelssohn's "Characteristic Piece", op. 7, No. 7.

A very noble performance of Beethoven's Sonata in A flat, op. 110, was perhaps the outstanding feature of the rest of the programme, which included a group of Brahms, Schumann's "Kinderscenen", Debussy's "Toccata", and a couple of characteristic Czecho-Slovak pieces by Joseph Suk. An interesting programme of autumn fixtures has been arranged, including a lecture on 11th December by Mrs. Rosa Newmarch on "Modern Czech Music". Full details of the Society and for the coming events are obtainable from the Secretary, at 74 Grosvenor Street, W. 1.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### BIRTH CONTROL.

MADAM,—In your columns of 22nd October you publish a statement concerning the Archbishop of Canterbury's objection to the headline in a newspaper "Archbishop Approves Birth Control," saying that it is "grossly misleading." It was published last June in the *Birth Control News* over a verbatim report of his speech in the House of Lords, given absolutely as it appears in Hansard. He may have forgotten his own words, but they are there for the world to read.

In his statement the Archbishop further says that the advice given by the "group" which takes me as its guide he regards as "mischievous," yet we obtained a majority in the House of Lords for the very thing which my "group" and I have been asking for years, in spite of the Government Whips being out against the motion. Naturally we deny that our teaching is mischievous. Briefly we state:—

"We believe that the haphazard production of children by ignorant, coerced, or diseased mothers is profoundly detrimental to the race. We believe, therefore, that parenthood should no longer be the result of ignorance, or accident, but should be a power used voluntarily and with knowledge."

"We advocate no individual contraceptive measure as final or fundamental, but maintain that the best measures available at any time should be taught and known by the people."

"In short we are profoundly and fundamentally a pro-baby organization, in favour of producing the largest possible number of healthy, happy children without detriment to the mother, and with the minimum wastage of infants by premature death."

MARIE C. STOPES,  
President Society for Constructive  
Birth Control and Racial Progress.

108 Whitfield Street,  
London, W. 1.

#### WOMEN POLICE.

MADAM,—Your correspondent, Miss F. E. L. Johnson, may like to hear of a good textbook on the subject of women police. May I refer her to that admirable work *The Pioneer Policewoman*, by Commandant Allen, O.B.E.? Particularly would I direct her to page 38.

If Miss F. E. L. Johnson will tell me through your columns where I can get the information that in 1914 it was illegal to appoint police-women, I shall be grateful to her.  
H. C. H. BLAKE.  
London, S.W.

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

Hon. President - Dame MILLICENT FAWCETT, G.B.E., LL.D.

### ANNUAL MEETING. FINAL NOTICE.

WOMEN'S SERVICE HOUSE, 35-37 MARSHAM STREET, WESTMINSTER, THURSDAY, 18th NOVEMBER, 1926, at 5 p.m.  
TEA, 4.30 p.m. (6d.), to meet Dame MILLICENT FAWCETT.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

*Acting President* . . . Miss B. A. CLOUGH, proposed by Mrs. Kinnell and seconded by Mrs. O. Strachey, has been duly elected, no other candidate standing.  
*Treasurer* . . . The Hon. Mrs. SPENCER GRAVES, proposed by Lady Strachey and seconded by Mrs. Kinnell, has been duly elected, no other candidate standing.  
*Committee* . . . Only ten nominations have been received in addition to those of the President and Treasurer, and the following are all duly elected:—

*Miss CLEGG	proposed by Mrs. Kinnell	seconded by Miss Helen Ward.
*The Lady EMMOTT	" Mrs. Abbott	" Hon. Mrs. Spencer Graves.
*Mrs. ARNOLD GLOVER	" Miss M. Crofton	" Miss Clegg.
*Mrs. KINNELL	" Mrs. McEacham	" Mrs. Glover.
Miss E. J. NORTON	" Mrs. O. Strachey	" Mrs. Kinnell.
*Miss I. B. O'MALLEY	" Miss G. Cooke	" Miss Ward.
*Mrs. IVAN SANDERSON	" Miss Clegg	" Miss O'Malley.
*Lady SPRIGGE	" Miss Clough	" Mrs. Oliver Strachey.
*Mrs. OLIVER STRACHEY	" Miss O'Malley	" Miss Hancock.
*Miss HELEN WARD	" Mrs. Glover	" Mrs. Abbott.

\* Members of Outgoing Committee.

### BUSINESS.

1. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
2. Appointment of Auditor.
3. Alteration of Rules. Proposed by the Executive Committee.  
That the name of the Society be changed to "The London and National Society for Women's Service" and that the Rules be altered accordingly.
4. Resolutions. Proposed by the Executive Committee.  
(1) That the London Society for Women's Service in Annual Meeting assembled urges the Government no longer to delay in

dealing with the question of Equal Franchise between men and women, in order that women may be assured of voting on equal terms with men at the next Election.

(2) That this Society welcomes the suggestion that a Junior Council should be formed in connection with its work, and offers every assistance to the members of the Council in the efforts they may make to establish their right to equal pay and equal opportunity in their professional and business lives.

5. The Society, 1866-1926. Mrs. Oliver Strachey.

P. STRACHEY, Secretary

It is hoped that Members will attend this celebration, and hear of the Society's new prospects and developments.

## COMING EVENTS.

## GUILDHOUSE WOMEN CITIZENS' SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER 15. 3 p.m. The Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. Dr. Percy Dearmer on "Some Famous Spanish Pictures."

## LEAGUE OF THE CHURCH MILITANT.

NOVEMBER 12. 5.30 p.m. Caxton Hall, Westminster. Lecture by Mrs. Wedgwood Benn on "Travels in Russia and the Near East."

## LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE.

NOVEMBER 18. 5 p.m. 35 Marsham Street, S.W. Annual Meeting.

## NATIONAL UNION OF SOCIETIES FOR EQUAL CITIZENSHIP.

NOVEMBER 5. 3.30 p.m. Church House, Great Smith Street, Westminster. Conference on Coal Dispute. Speaker: Miss Maude Royden. Chair: Miss Eleanor Rathbone.

NOVEMBER 8. 5 p.m. Reception at Old County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W. 1, to meet the Right Hon. The Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C., and Dame Edith Lyttelton, D.B.E.

**Bebington and District W.C.A.** NOVEMBER 5. 7.45 p.m. The Technical Institute, Boundary Road, Port Sunlight. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Women's International Work for Peace and Equality."

**Gillingham W.C.A.** NOVEMBER 8. 7.30 p.m. Arden Street. Mr. H. J. Ross on "The Romance of a Newspaper."

**Ilkley S.E.C.** NOVEMBER 8. 3.15 p.m. Public Meeting in Wesleyan Assembly Hall. Speakers: Mrs. Herbert Rhodes and Miss J. B. Kitson, J.P.

**Horsham W.C.A.** NOVEMBER 12. 3 p.m. Mrs. Abbott on "Restrictive Legislation for Women."

**Liverpool W.C.A. and N.C.W.** NOVEMBER 5. 3 p.m. Church House, South John Street. Mrs. Corbett Ashby on "Women's International Work for Peace and Equality."

**Portsmouth W.C.A.** NOVEMBER 16. 7.30 p.m. Grand Jury Room, Guildhall. Dr. W. A. Robson on "The Break-up of the Poor Law."

## THE PIONEER SOCIETY, MARGATE.

NOVEMBER 9. 5.45 p.m. Fort Lodge Hotel, Fort Crescent, Cliftonville, Margate. Miss Monica Whately on "Assaults on Children."

## ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE.

NOVEMBER 5. 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Girl's Club, Soho. Miss Fedden on "The Dignity of Women."

NOVEMBER 7. 10.30 a.m. St. Patrick's, Soho. Annual Mass for Deceased Members, Associates and Benefactors of the Alliance.

## SOCIETY FOR THE OVERSEA SETTLEMENT OF BRITISH WOMEN.

NOVEMBER 12. 4.45 p.m. Public Meeting at Great Hall, Church House, Westminster, S.W. Speakers: The Right Hon. S. M. Bruce, M.C., M.P., the Right Hon. L. S. Amery, M.P., and Miss Margaret Bondfield, M.P. For tickets apply, Secretary, S.O.S.B.W., Caxton House (West Block), Tothill Street, S.W. 1.

## WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE.

NOVEMBER 10. 3-8 p.m. Annual Fair, at Mrs. Laurence Binyon's house, British Museum. Particulars from Secretary, W.I.L., 55 Gower Street, W.C.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

**LONDON SOCIETY FOR WOMEN'S SERVICE,** 35 Marsham Street, Westminster. Secretary, Miss P. Strachey. Information Bureau. Interviews, 10 to 1, except Saturdays. Members' Centre open daily. Restaurant open to 7.30. (Not Saturdays.)

**FELLOWSHIP SERVICES,** Guildhouse, Eccleston Square, S.W. 1. Sunday, 7th November: 3.30 p.m. Dr. W. H. Eccles, F.R.S., on "The Influence of Wireless on Modern Life." 6.30 p.m. Maude Royden on "The Way of Victory."

**EDUCATED HOME HELPS BUREAU,** Philbeach Hall, Philbeach Gardens, Earl's Court, requires and supplies educated women for all branches of domestic work. Registration: Employers 2s. 6d., Workers 1s. Suits, 7s. 6d. and 2s. Telephone, Western 6323.

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